

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 NIC-01 /064 W

----- 078871

R 241405Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3795

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3456

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PINT ET

SUBJECT: KING-DESIGNATE'S APPOINTMENT REVOKED: EMBASSY COMMENTS

REFS: (A) FBIS LONDON 21/2002ZMAR75; (B) ADDIS 3028

1. AS REPORTED REF A, PMAC HAS REVOKED DESIGNATION OF ASFA WOSSEN AS KING OF ETHIOPIA AND HAS CANCELED ROYAL TITLES.

2. LANGUAGE OF ANNOUNCEMENT SUGGESTS THAT ONLY HEREDITARY TITLES (PRINCE, ETC.) DISCARDED BUT NOT HONORIFICS STILL IN WIDE USE (E.G. DEJAZMATCH, KEGNAZMATCH).

3. IN LIGHT AUTHORITY REPORT OF DIRG'S BELIEF THAT LONDON GROUP ORGANIZING ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE (CF REF B), EMBASSY INCLINES TO VIEW THAT TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT COULD WELL HAVE BEEN INTENDED PREEMPT SUCH A MOVE AND DESIGNED STRIP/REDUCE ANY LEGITIMACY WHICH SOME MIGHT HAVE ATTACHED TO ROYAL GOVERNMENT
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PRESIDED BY ASFA WOSSEN.

4. SEEMS NOTEWORTHY IN THIS REGARD THAT DIRG HAS OFFERED LATTER GRACEFUL OUT BY ADVANCING HIS ILL HEALTH AS A CAUSE FOR ITS DECISION, THEREBY MINIMIZING STRAINS WITH HIS PARTISANS.

5. TREND TOWARDS GRADUAL DISESTABLISHMENT OF MONARCHY HAS OF COURSE BEEN IN EVIDENCE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS ALTHOUGH, AS DEPARTMENT WELL AWARE, THERE REMAIN PESONALITIES IN DETENTION OR AT LARGE TO WHICH ROYALIST SENTIMENT/SUPPORT COULD EVENTUALLY GRAVITATE.

6. STILL, SEEMS TO US THAT EPMG ABOUT READY TO PROCLAIM A REPUBLIC, PRESUMABLY OF THE POPULAR AND/OR DEMOCRATIC VARIETY, AND IT MAY DO SO IN RELATIVELY NEAR TERM.
HUMMEL

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